[TFR 79-1]

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In April, 1950, a U.S. Navy aircraft was shot down over the Baltic Sea by Soviet fighters. At that time, all of the crew members were considered missing in action. Relatives and close military pilots have not given up hope in finding them or if only something on the fates of the MIAs. One of them, 70 year old American Jane Reynolds, arrived in Russia in an attempt to get at the bottom of this secret. After finding out that traces of missing military flyers lead toward Vorkuta, she wanted to quickly set off for our town. But the North is not for the elderly, not to mention those in poor health. Colonel Edward Pusey, Representative of the Joint US-Russian Commission on POW/MIA affairs, brought us her touching letter to the people of Vorkuta.

[Photo]

Robert as he was when he left in 1950, never to return. Tall, Blue eyes, blonde curly hair.

[Photo]

Computer generated picture of a 70 year old Robert. It is an example of how he would look now if he were alive.

Jane Reynolds:
"I must find out the secret of his fate"

In April, 1951, the U.S. Government reported the fact that my husband presumably died. The families of the other crew members received the same report. At that time I believed my government, therefore, I remarried in 1955. My second husband raised Robert's two daughters together with the four children of our marriage. My second husband died in 1985.

In August 1991, I stumbled upon an article in the Los Angeles Times entitled "American Ghosts in the GULAG", which confirms that the U.S. State Department and Defense Department knew from the very beginning that the aircraft's crew were taken into captivity by the Soviet military.

This was shocking to me! Since then I have been trying to gather as much information as possible on the plane and it's crew. "Izvestiya" corespondent, Valeriy Rudnev, found out about my search from an American colleague and obtained from him a picture of Robert at the age of 25, as he was when he left in 1950, never to return. Then, Rudnev published several articles

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in "Izvestiya" on the fates of Robert Reynolds and the crew members of his plane.

Records, declassified by the American government, and personal contact with two former prisoners of the corrective labor camp in Vorkuta who served their time in the '50s, allowed me to come to the conclusion that most of the crew members were probably prisoners in one of the prison camps in Vorkuta (possibly camp No. 5) from September 1950 to July 1954. Their fates are unknown any further.

It appears that I can examine two main possibilities. First: One or all of them could have been transferred to another camp. If this is the case, then I would be very grateful to receive any other information which could shed light on their further fate.

The second possibility is based on the assumption that after serving 25 years in a camp for espionage, he could have survived and continues to live somewhere quiet and inconspicuous. At least I hope that is the case. If one of them did survive, then it is possible that he has a wife and children (possibly having dual citizenship). I plead for them to respond. Attentively read through this list of names and birthplaces of the crew members of the U.S. Navy aircraft "Navy Privateer" shot down over the Baltic Sea: [redacted], Pennsylvania; [redacted], Virginia, Robert Reynolds, New York; [redacted], Kansas; [redacted], New Jersey; [redacted], Oklahoma; Dzho (b)(3)
Khenri Dehnens, Montana; [redacted], Kentucky; [redacted], Pennsylvania; [redacted], Michigan.

If anyone remembers anything or is in possession of information on these people or other Americans POWs, please, report it. Address to write to: Lev Bugrov, Colonel MVD, Vorkuta, office number 7-47-55, or the Joint US-Russian Commission on POW/MIA affairs: Moscow (095) 206-3304, Colonel Ed Pusey (095) 155-50-30, room 804, Aerostar Hotel in Moscow, Colonel William Saks or Captain James Connell. You can call the Director of the "Memorial" in Vorkuta, Vitalij Troshin, at 3-33-54 (home number) or in the ARK project in Moscow at (095) 470-3620.

I still live with a beautiful Russian family, which has been very helpful. I know that it would be difficult for me to leave home for America. Yet, I hope to return, since I understand that Russians and Americans are more alike than they are different from each other. Our belief confirms, and we hold on to this

Bahaian belief, that "the Earth is nothing more than one country, and all of mankind her citizens".

With love, Jane Reynolds Howard. [redacted] (b)(6)

Editor's Note: Jane Reynolds donated to the residents of Vorkuta, through the Vorkuta "Chas Pik" newspaper, several booklets containing the innermost thoughts of the Bahai religion as well as her signature in gratitude. Those interested in knowing more about the Bahai faith are welcome to do so in the reading room of the Pushkin Library.

The honorarium for this article will be donated to the "Memorial" foundation.